

No, I have sat & waited for years for the government to intervene w/ the problems of Comcast cable. I am a victim of the black out of Philadelphia sports. I can order channels to watch every NHL, NBA, or MLB team w/ the exception of my local teams. There is no way I should be penalized for being a Directv customer. It's time for the government to control the monopoly problem of Comcast. There used to be a time when you could watch over 50 percent of your local teams on over the air UHF channels. Comcast now holds the rights to 75 percent or more of our local teams. I find it hard to believe that our local lawmakers have turned a blind eye to this situation for all these years. How long do we have to wait for something to be done for the fans who supported these sports franchises for all these years? I refuse to be held hostage by these cable companies just to be a local sports fan.

Giant cable companies should not be permitted to grow larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules that must be re-established to serve the public interest.

The concentration of power and control over distribution of media is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are under the operation of a handful of giant corporations.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50 percent of the national market. This level of concentration in the cable industry will lead to higher consumer rates and lower quality service.

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the \"deregulation\" of cable, consumers have seen their rates jump an average of 59 percent -- with some areas experiencing even more dramatic increases.

We are required to buy channels we don't want or need because the cable operators bundle them together. The quality of customer service often reflects the fact that cable television is not a competitive market.

Meanwhile, the cost of cable modem service remains out of reach for many households, holding constant for years and selectively underserving rural and low-income Americans. The American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments.

In many communities, the truly independent sources of local news, information and culture come from the public channels produced at the local access centers. Unfortunately, local channels lack the resources to produce the programming that citizens want and need.

The last thing we need is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants by permitting greater consolidation in ownership, reducing competition, and encouraging more of the same.